

"LET THERE BE LIGHT."

When we, in our weakness, endeavor to grasp the wonders of nature in vegetable and animal life, we cannot fail to exclaim, "How wonderful are the works of Thy hands, O Lord!"

Then when we see the glorious sunlight and its effect upon this life, as it dispels the darkest night, we, although so insignificant, are compelled to pronounce it "good."

If, in the darkest midnight, we could command the light of the full blaze of day to spread over the land, and be obeyed, we would be considered as possessing supernatural power (as indeed we would be). God said at the world's creation, "Let there be light, and there was light," and He is practically saying the same words every morning of our existence.

Not only does God repeat His first command when "day excludes the night," but also when He whispers the command to every soul which is recognized as the "still small voice," the "indwelling voice of God," as His "Spirit" and holy "comforter," all of which the Friends recognize. We are not compelled to comply with His request, "Let there be light," but we have the freedom of choice, thus proving Him to be a God of justice and love.

While He does not compel us to obey, and we may wander far from Him; the moment we are willing to return, He is ever near and willing to assist us to "Cease to do evil and learn to do well," thus proving Him a patient and forgiving God. The facts that God is a patient, loving and forgiving God should be an incentive to lay aside our obstinacy in accepting the Light, being ever acquiescent to its guidance.

Never in the history of the last fifty years, has the necessity of being true, earnest, obedient workers for our Saviour been more urgent than at the present time. Enter the habitations of worldly pleasure seekers in the country, the railroad depots, eating houses and hotels of our cities, towns and villages,

and we find that profane, vulgar and obscene language is the habitual form used by many, with the exception of instances where the influence of the presence of ladies prevents but too often, even the respect due the gentler sex seem to be lost by the depraved condition of their diseased soul. In the still hours of midnight the sounds of revelry, (as described above), can be heard in our hotels and depots, which cannot fail to mar the pure, spotless characters of those who may be in adjoining rooms, and are compelled to listen to such, whether it be in accordance with their wishes or not.

Let the young professors, (not of Friends' principles only), but of Christianity awoken to the facts as they are, and as the new year of 1894 dawns upon us, resolve to accept His request, "Let there be light." Let us uncompromisingly bid adieu to our fears of humanity, to Satan and his allurements, and show to the world our disgust of all the elements abroad that have a tendency to drag down, and we will, by thus doing, create around us an interest in the God we serve, unconsciously to ourselves, and if asked the secret of our happiness by this service, let us answer, obey His command, "Let there be light," and mind it, for to me all the mystery (so-called) that enshrouds Christianity needs but one sentence for explanation, "Mind the light," and, by so doing, we will find wherein our duty lies for the present, and as we perform the duties for the present, *future* duties will continually open themselves before us. The present alone is ours, so let us work while it is yet day, for the night comes when no man can work. REEVES SHINN.

Holder, III.

IMMANENCE.

BY RICHARD HOVEY.

Enthroned beyond the world although He sit,
Still is the world in Him, and He in it,
The self-same God in yonder sunset glows,
That kindled in the lords of Holy Writ.

—From the *Cosmopolitan*.